

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended herein. Entry of the amendment and favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-9 UNDER 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 1-9 now stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) based on *Kono et al.* in view of *Ando et al.* Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 is amended herein to emphasize that the recording device of the present invention records the second input signal and the third input signal on the information medium as one individually indexed recording unit when the input switching device switches the input from the second input signal to the third input signal. Claim 5, as amended, clarifies that the recording device records the first input signal and the second input signal as different individually indexed recording units when the input switching device switches the input from the first input signal to the second input signal. The feature whereby the present invention records such inputs as either one individually indexed recording unit or different individually indexed recording is neither taught nor shown in the prior art as discussed in more detail below.

FIG. 3

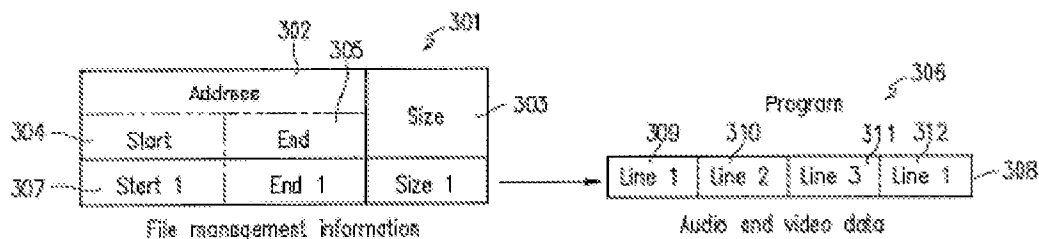
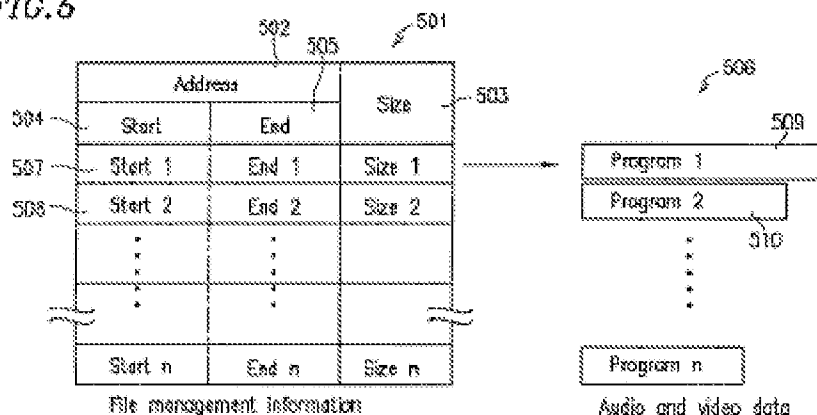


FIG. 5



Figs. 3 and 5 of Present Application

Specifically, the present invention relates to the aspect whereby switching between different input signals can result in different input signals being recorded as either one recording unit (claim 1) or different recording units (claim 5). The present application defines “recording unit” as a unit of audio and video information used in managing audio and video information during reproduction of recorded audio and video information”.

FIG. 3, reproduced above, illustrates different input signals combined within one recording unit to which addresses “Start 1” and “End 1” together with size “Size 1” is provided in relation to the one recording unit. FIG. 5, also reproduced above, illustrates the manner in which a different recording unit is produced for each of the respective

input signals in the case of changes between different channel input signals. Thus, FIG. 5 illustrates file management information for each of the respective recording units.

As can be noted from a comparison of FIG. 3 and FIG. 5, the recording units in accordance with the present invention are individually indexed (e.g., by start address, end address and size). FIG. 3 shows a single individually indexed recording unit including audio and video information from a plurality of input signals. FIG. 5, on the other hand illustrates a plurality of individually indexed recording units, each of which includes audio and video information from a single input signal.

Kono et al. teaches a number of methods for recording multiple programs on a video tape and reproducing the multiple programs from the video tape. In its simplest implementation, Kono et al. teaches that input signals A and B are stored on a video tape as interlaced fields (see, e.g., FIG. 4). For example, Kono et al. teaches a number of embodiments for recording the interlaced fields of signals A and B by digitizing signal B temporarily and subsequently inserting fields of signal B in between fields of signal A. (see, e.g., FIG. 6). In another embodiment such as that shown in FIGS. 16 and 17 of Kono et al., both the input signals A and B are digitized and stored in memory. The respective input signals A and B are then read individually from the memory and stored in an interlaced manner on a video tape.

Kono et al. describes addressing the stored input signals in the context of individually accessing either the signal A data or the B data from memory. However, Kono et al. does not teach or suggest individually accessing data which includes both input signal A and input signal B data. Rather, Kono et al. teaches that one must individually access the signal A data followed by the signal B data as separate recording units, and so on.

Accordingly, the present invention is fundamentally different from that which is described in Kono et al. The present invention provides for both the second input signal and the third input signal to be recorded on the recording medium as an individually indexed recording unit. The present invention does not require that a

recording unit representing one input signal (e.g., signal A) be indexed separately as a recording unit from a recording unit representing another input signal (e.g., signal B) as taught in Kono et al. Rather, amended claim 1 recites that the second input and third input signal are recorded on the recording medium as one individually indexed recording unit.

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that claims 1-9 are patentably distinguishable over the teachings of Kono et al. Moreover, *Ando et al.* does not make up for the deficiencies in Kono et al. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 10-14 UNDER 35 USC §103(a)

Remaining claims 10-14 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) based on *Kono et al.* and *Ando et al.* in view of *Official Notice*.

Claims 10-14 depend from claim 1 either directly or indirectly, and can be distinguished over *Kono et al.* and *Ando et al.* for at least the same reasons discussed above. *Official Notice* does not make up for the deficiencies in *Kono et al.* and *Ando et al.* As a result, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

III. CONCLUSION

Accordingly, all claims 1-14 are believed to be allowable and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Serial No.: 09/887,587

Should a petition for an extension of time be necessary for the timely reply to the outstanding Office Action (or if such a petition has been made and an additional extension is necessary), petition is hereby made and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees (including additional claim fees) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

Respectfully submitted,

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